

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 11 have been cancelled and new claims 12-23 are now pending in the application. Claims 12-23 have been drafted for clarity and ease of reading.

No new matter is believed to have been added by these amendments. Support for these new claims can be found on pages 3 - 6 of the specification and in the figures.

In an Office Action dated January 14, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1 - 11 under 35 U.S. C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that any improper antecedent bases for “second polycapillary lens” in claim 2 and for “said specimen surface” and “the excitation and measurement arrangement” in claim 9 are moot based upon the cancellation of claims 1-11 and submission of new claims 12-23. Additionally, claim 1 is now cancelled and claim 12 recites a method step, therefore, grounds for rejection on this basis are now moot. With respect to Examiner’s ground for rejection that the meaning of “semi-lens” is unclear, applicant submits that the term semi-lens is commonly known as “half-lens”.

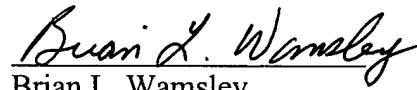
Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112. In view of the amendments, remarks and

evidence, favorable consideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge all required fees including any extension fees due, any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 06-0923. Enclosed is a duplicate copy of this sheet.

Respectfully submitted for Applicant,



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